

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
EXPERIMENT STATION

PRESS BULLETIN NO. 60

To the Editor:

The notice below will be of value to many of your readers. We, therefore, ask you to cooperate with us in calling attention to this timely matter.

R. S. SHAW, Director.

SMALL POTATOES FOR SEED

The high price at which potatoes are selling and the scarcity of good seed potatoes will cause growers to use very small and inferior seed much more commonly this season than usual.

Potatoes which are a little larger than a good sized hen's egg if taken from productive and disease free hills are desirable for seed purposes. Potatoes of this size taken from fields which are known to have been pure as to variety and practically free from disease will not be objectionable. Such seed should be planted whole.

Potatoes which are much smaller than a hen's egg especially when the general condition of the crop from which they were taken is unknown may result in the development of a

large per centage of diseased hills and a corresponding reduction in yield. Very small seed whether planted whole or cut will enhance the danger of loss from diseases and unfavorable weather conditions because the plants which grow from such seed do not get as good a start as from larger seed.

The potato plant is dependent upon the seed piece for its entire development for some time after the plant begins to grow. Large seed will almost invariably produce stronger plants than very small seed. All seed should be treated for scab and black scurf before planting. For directions as to method of treating the seed write the Michigan Agricultural College, East Lansing.

Horticultural Department,

Mich. Agricul. College,

April 4, 1917.